



Date: November 30, 2015

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

RE: NOVEMBER 2015 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION REPORT

CENTER OPERATIONS

- Continuing to work with SmartMarketing to **promote the DRCI**.
- Approved several new submissions to **LowcountryWORKS.com**.
- Have enrolled 21 individuals into our new **membership program**.
- **Creating a new DRCI website** for mid December Launch.
- Meeting with various municipalities about **partnership opportunities with the DRCI**

INNOVATORS

- Currently there are **8 innovators** in the Center.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month. A lot of progress with each company.
- Coordinating prototype development for **Elongator**. Video conference and in person design meetings with the **Southeastern Institute for Manufacturing Technology in Florence, SC**.
- Met with **three potential innovators**.
- Coordinating meetings and phone calls with representatives from **Coastal Carolina** and **Hilton Head Hospital** regarding advice and possible pilot testing on the Hales Medical app being developed by the SCAD group that is working out of the DRCI.
- Multiple **calls and video conferences with Clemson**.

OUTREACH AND STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

- Continuing year two of partnership with **SCAD** for entrepreneurship sessions.
- Spoke to 350+ people at the Hilton Head Realtors meeting on Economic Development. Keynote speaker was **SC Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt who singled the DRCI out**

twice in his keynote speech about our success and our view that economic development is a “regional” endeavor.

- Met with the **Beaufort Regional Chamber**.
- Met with **Mark Davis the Executive Director** from the newest Clemson Technology Village in Pickens, SC
- Initiated a Basecamp project for so that all **Clemson Technology Village Directors can communicate and collaborate** on items of interest, best practices, etc.
- **Working with AT&T who would like to be a sponsor of the DRCI**. This will probably be a small sponsorship at first in the form of computer hardware. Will probably occur in December. In 2016 we look for the sponsorship to grow in size.
- **Advising the SC Dept. of Innovation** on a web-based platform and other methods to allow various Innovation resources throughout the State to communicate.
- **First official speech at USCB as part of their Career Exploration Series**. Turnout was 40 students – one of the best turnouts they have had.
- Was invited and attended the “**HHI High School: Island Connections**” event at Hilton Head High School.
- Conference call with David Warner from the **Rock Hill Incubator**.
- Hosted our **monthly “Wordpress” meetup**.
- Hosted our **monthly “Women on the Fast Track” meeting**.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS

- Attended **Senior Staff** meetings.
- Attended **Annual Thanksgiving** lunch.
- Various meetings with **Town Manager**.
- Helping with the **redesign of the Town of Bluffton website**.